

**To:** Dewell, Dan CIV[Dan.Dewell@uscg.mil]; pdhodgins@paalp.com[pdhodgins@paalp.com]; Williams, Jennifer F CAPT[Jennifer.F.Williams@uscg.mil]; Waldon, MARGARET[Waldon.Margaret@epa.gov]; Corbo, Christian@Wildlife[Christian.Corbo@wildlife.ca.gov]; Downey, Charlene L CAPT[Charlene.L.Downey@uscg.mil]; rtroy@sbcoem.org[rtroy@sbcoem.org]; Rockabrand, Ryan[rrockabrand@sbcoem.org]; BLeone@paalp.com[BLeone@paalp.com]  
**Cc:** Bronson, Collin R LCDR[Collin.R.Bronson@uscg.mil]; Dixon, Anna K LT[Anna.K.Dixon@uscg.mil]; Laughlin, Eric@Wildlife[Eric.Laughlin@wildlife.ca.gov]; Gonzalez, Steve@Wildlife[Steve.Gonzalez@wildlife.ca.gov]; Thomas.Cullen@wildlife.ca.gov[Thomas.Cullen@wildlife.ca.gov]; Yvonne.Addassi@wildlife.ca.gov[Yvonne.Addassi@wildlife.ca.gov]  
**From:** Fricke, Mary@Wildlife  
**Sent:** Fri 11/6/2015 10:57:07 PM  
**Subject:** RE: UC / Note on potential inquiries / Refugio Response  
[FINAL DRAFT - Sampling Press Release 6-21.pdf](#)

Here is the attachment and I have pasted the text of the news release below:

DATE: June 22, 2015

CONTACT: Alexia Retallack, DFW Office of Spill Prevention and Response  
(916) 952-3317

Single Manhattan tarball matched to Refugio oil spill source: Investigation continues

The Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFWOSPR) received a report of a tar-like substance on Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles County, on May 27, 2015. OSPR staff responded and confirmed the existence of tarballs on the beach. Low levels of tarballs are typically present on Southern California beaches from natural sources, most commonly from offshore seepage from fissures in the seabed; however, the significant increase in the numbers of tarballs observed on the beach triggered a dedicated incident response with the activation of a Unified Command and establishment of a command post at Manhattan Beach. The response was led by the United States Coast Guard and the CDFW-OSPR. The nearby Chevron facility activated its response plan as a precaution. The Unified Command initiated cleanup of the tarballs and all of the beaches were cleaned to what were estimated to be background levels of naturally present tarballs.

As part of standard procedure OSPR staff took samples of the tarballs for chemical analyses by its Petroleum Chemistry Laboratory in Rancho Cordova, CA. These samples were run through a series of tests to determine the source of the excess numbers of tarballs. Again, as part of standard protocol, the analytical data were compared with samples of known natural seeps and other potential sources of oil in the area. Given the timing of the Santa Barbara pipeline rupture, a Manhattan Beach tarball sample was also compared to a source sample taken from the Refugio Incident oil spill. OSPR's analysis focused upon similarities in key components in the oil sample and considered those predictable chemical changes the tarball would likely experience due to environmental weathering.

After an exhaustive analysis by the chemists at OSPR's Petroleum Chemistry Laboratory, including independent peer review and corroboration of the methods used and interpretation of results, OSPR determined that the Manhattan tarball sample matched the source sample taken from the Refugio Incident oil spill. Further, the OSPR lab determined that the sample did not match local natural seep oil or oil from vessels in the vicinity around the time of the tarball event.

Although the test results of this tarball sample matched the Refugio Incident oil spill, the source of all tarballs on Manhattan Beach cannot be determined based on one sample. Tar balls from natural seeps will continue to wash ashore and OSPR will continue to collect samples for analysis as part of the on-going investigation. CDFW-OSPR will also continue its established practice of responding to reports of concentrations of tarballs to determine the

source, natural or otherwise and, if necessary, oversee a cleanup of petroleum from illegal spills.

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Please do not reply to this e-mail. OSPRNews@wildlife.ca.gov is for outgoing messages only and is not checked for incoming mail. For questions about this News Release, contact the individual(s) listed above. Thank you.

Like CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response at [www.facebook.com/CalSpillWatch](https://www.facebook.com/CalSpillWatch) and Twitter @CalSpillWatch or visit <https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov> or [www.refugioresponse.com](http://www.refugioresponse.com) for the latest news and information on the Refugio Incident.

-----Original Message-----

From: Fricke, Mary@Wildlife

Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 2:54 PM

To: 'Dewell, Dan CIV'; pdhodgins@paalp.com; Williams, Jennifer F CAPT; waldon.margaret@epa.gov; Corbo, Christian@Wildlife; Downey, Charlene L CAPT; rtroy@sbcoem.org; Rockabrand, Ryan; BLeone@paalp.com

Cc: Bronson, Collin R LCDR; Dixon, Anna K LT; Laughlin, Eric@Wildlife; Gonzalez, Steve@Wildlife; Cullen, Thomas@Wildlife; Addassi, Yvonne@Wildlife

Subject: RE: UC / Note on potential inquiries / Refugio Response

All,

Please refer to the attached press release OSPR issued on Friday, July 3, 2015 about the tar ball sampling.

Please refer calls about the sampling that our lab completed to an OSPR PIO. Our contact information is:

Mary Fricke	916-327-9833 (desk)	916-417-0210 (cell)
Eric Laughlin	916-323-6286 (desk)	916-214-3279 (cell)
Steve Gonzalez	916-327-9948 (desk)	916-539-6124 (cell)

Thanks,  
Mary Fricke

-----Original Message-----

From: Dewell, Dan CIV [mailto:Dan.Dewell@uscg.mil]

Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 11:57 AM

To: pdhodgins@paalp.com; Williams, Jennifer F CAPT; waldon.margaret@epa.gov; Corbo, Christian@Wildlife; Downey, Charlene L CAPT; rtroy@sbcoem.org; Rockabrand, Ryan; Fricke, Mary@Wildlife; BLeone@paalp.com

Cc: Bronson, Collin R LCDR; Dixon, Anna K LT

Subject: UC / Note on potential inquiries / Refugio Response

[UC Reps: Provided FYI. Brad from RP noted upcoming state hearing that might generate media or public inquiries.]

Brad:

Thanks for the note about the hearing. The U.S. Coast Guard is not participating as a member of the UC or as an agency. Other members of the UC may be participating.

If the hearing spurs media queries about the operations of the Unified Command operations related to the Refugio Oil spill they can be forward to me.

If queries relate to the location and results of samples taken during the Refugio spill/pipeline 901 oil I will refer the query to the only publicly available sample results posted at:

<http://www.refugioresponse.com/external/content/document/7258/2573230/1/Copy%20of%202015%20Southern%20Beaches%20Result%20Summary.pdf>

If asked specifically about tarball cleanup operations in the South Bay will clarify that those operations involved many of the same agencies that were involved in the Refugio UC operations, but they were conducted separately because there was no indication at the time that the tarballs were related to the Refugio spill.

I will coordinate any other queries/responses related to UC operations through the UC.

Queries about other matters (such as Natural Resource Damage Assessments) will be referred to appropriate agencies.

If any member agency or RP on the UC receives an general inquiries about their organization not directly related to Refugio response they should handle the query through their normal channels.

Dan Dewell  
PIO  
510 772-8217

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-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Leone [mailto:BLEone@paalp.com]  
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 10:58 AM  
To: Dewell, Dan CIV  
Cc: Karen M Rugaard; Meredith M Matthews; Patrick D Hodgins  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] South Bay Hearing on Refugio

Dan,

Per our conversation, following is a link showing the information about the upcoming Select Committee Hearing on the Refugio release to the South Bay this Tuesday. As discussed, I think the UC PIO should be prepared to provide some kind of statement to any media inquiries regarding the fact that to date, the South Bay clean-up was done independently of the Refugio response and that no link currently exists between the two incidents (tar ball sampling results could be explained as well, if appropriate). In addition, I think it's important that the UC PIO be prepared to send this statement and call any reporters who misrepresent this detail in their story.

Here's the link to the hearing: [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_\\_twitter.com\\_surfrider-5Fsby\\_statuses\\_662093157195059200&d=BQIFAg&c=0NKfg44GVknAU-XkWXjNxQ&r=0OotoX5lqYCetMfu-610NjP58gMML88cePdugWH7aaM&m=7ib\\_cDNfwHBq0\\_fB5\\_OXCAC7HES7Vpe2\\_V-wpSepUil&s=BvqVfz66CpbmdtRFsLfonuZZ2iW-8wxTuZo2uKyPcwA&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__twitter.com_surfrider-5Fsby_statuses_662093157195059200&d=BQIFAg&c=0NKfg44GVknAU-XkWXjNxQ&r=0OotoX5lqYCetMfu-610NjP58gMML88cePdugWH7aaM&m=7ib_cDNfwHBq0_fB5_OXCAC7HES7Vpe2_V-wpSepUil&s=BvqVfz66CpbmdtRFsLfonuZZ2iW-8wxTuZo2uKyPcwA&e=)

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Let me know your thoughts - thanks.

Brad Leone  
Director, Corporate Communications and Stakeholder Relations Plains All American Pipeline  
713-646-4196 direct  
281-806-9911 mobile  
bleone@paalp.com

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